

Commissioners

Marisel A. Hernandez, *Chairwoman*
William J. Kresse, *Commissioner/Secretary*
Jonathan T. Swain, *Commissioner*
Lance Gough, *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago
Minutes Regular Board Meeting
August 14, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairwoman
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

Staff:

Lance Gough, Executive Director
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive [Absent]
James P. Allen, Communications Director
Bill Perez, Coordinator Hispanic Outreach
Lorel Blameuser, Purchasing Agent
Matt Lin, Manager Information Technology
Sarita Villarreal, Consultant
Gary Ryczyn, Consultant
Geneva Morris, Videographer
Trupti Patel
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Madeleine Doubek, Better Government Association (BGA)
Sandy Hed, Election Works
Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Tracy Hartlieb, Equip For Equality
Madeleine Doubek, Better Government Association (BGA)
Jennifer Lagoni, CDWG
Tony Ameri, Dell EMC
Ashley Everhart, Dell EMC
B. A. Sheriff, NAACP

- I. Call to Order: The Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 10, 2018 – Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 10, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kresse. The motion passed, the Minutes were approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Gough reported:

- Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) has been looking into working with Equip for Equality (EFE). Also, the ISBE is starting to work on a survey tool like the one that we are using. The ISBE is producing a survey to send out to all the jurisdiction throughout Illinois. The ISBE version is slightly different than ours and Mr. Gough and EFE are not sure why it differs. Mr. Gough and EFE are going to meet with the ISBE regarding this matter.
- We are having our Polling Place Administrators (PPA) complete the in depth survey (distributed to the Board) on Election Day.
- We had previously reduced the pay of our Polling Place Administrators and Mr. Gough would like to increase their pay. Completing the surveys is an increase to their duties and they now will be receiving additional training on working with persons with disabilities at the polling place locations. Each PPA has 2 days of training and a test that they have to pass, plus Election Day. Mr. Gough asked for a \$100 increase per PPA bringing their pay from \$350 to \$450. General Counsel Adam Lasker pointed out that the training includes setting up temporary remedies which is all part of our agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ), so the Election Coordinators (also known as, Polling Place Administrators) are going to be helping us set up ADA remedies in the polling places.
- The Election Coordinators will not have to deal with the measurement/ratio portions of the survey. EFE and DoJ have surveyors going to the polling places to deal with these aspects of the survey, along with taking pictures on Election Day. They will be carrying credentials and the Judges of Election are being made aware of that surveyors will be coming to the polling place and are authorized to take pictures of the polling places. It is also stated in the handbooks.
- There is a Women's march scheduled in October, and we are getting ready for it. We expect that many of those participating will be coming to our Early Voting Supersite after the march. It looks like the Supersite will be at 114 S. State. The site will be ready for early voting, and will be available through April, including a period when we can use it for Judges of Election Training for the 2019 elections.

- Mr. Gough asked EFE representative Tracey Hartlieb to address the Board.
 - Ms. Hartlieb reiterated many of the statements regarding PPA/Election Coordinators, Investigators and surveys that were made in Mr. Gough's report.
 - EFE is still sending out surveyors to polling places to clear up any discrepancies that appeared on prior surveys.
 - EFE will start recruitment once the new polling places are put online.
- Mr. Gough presented a draft of the ballot for next election. The mockup was created to see if we would have enough room and how we could lay out the ballot. We will need two 21-inch ballots printed on both sides. Commissioner Kresse expects that the voters' time in the voting booth will be increased. General Counsel Lasker pointed out that fact will make this is a great time for voters to use Vote by Mail (VBM) or Early Vote. Communications Director Allen will touch on that in his report
- Mr. Gough and Mr. Lasker were on an election security panel earlier this month as part of the the American Bar Association (ABA) Annual Meeting. Commissioner Kresse also attended and stated that it was good to hear how far ahead the CBEC is compared to the rest of the nation,
 - A. Assistant Executive Director [Mr. Charles Holiday was absent from this meeting]
 - B. Communications Director [Jim Allen]
 - The Board has finished its mail canvass. 1.5 million voters should have received their canvass mailing. Because of the change in paper stock, we were able to use the back of the mailer to promote VBM.
 - The Vote by Mail application went on-line last Wednesday, 90 days before Election Day. We have already received 588 applications as of yesterday morning. That is many more than we have ever had this far in advance of an election.
 - The Board is about to start printing the Judges of Election and Election Coordinator recruitment posters and mailings. We are going to target barbershops and beauty salons (as suggested by Commissioner Swain at an earlier meeting) in this mailing, as well.
 - Along with the printing which is on the agenda, we are going to put out for bid a pre-election household mailing. As mentioned, this election is going to have an extremely long ballot, with approximately 16 screens on touchscreens, so we are going to be promoting VBM in this mailing. VBM is going to be the smoothest way for everyone to get through this election. With the bid, it would allow for extension of award, if needed.
 - We have received approval from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) for the use of Chicagoelections.gov. The transition will be under way in the next month or so. Discussion ensued about the security advantages of the ".gov" and retention of ".net" and ".com" domains.

- Mr. Allen asked if Madeline Doubeck of the Better Government Association (BGA), who had requested to make public comment at this meeting, could speak at this time rather than wait for the Public Comment Segment of this meeting. Commissioner Kresse moved to go out of agenda order. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.
 - Ms. Madeline Doubeck – BGA:
 - The BGA is asking that the Board provide Municipal Election candidates the option to have their email, phone and website address posted on the Board’s website. This would allow the public and the media to contact candidates directly. Right now the candidates are only required to file a home address. In this day and age, email, phone and website addresses should be a better way to engage civic-minded citizens.

There was discussion on the subject and the Members expressed various concerns regarding including this information on the Board’s website and determined that further consideration is necessary.
- Discussion about the length of time a person spends in line on the last day of Early Voting versus the amount of time a person spends in line at the polling place. As the deadline approaches the participation increases. With the new Supersite we will have approximately 150 voting units, as there are enough electrical outlets.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: continues.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Community Services and Training Manager Audra Lewicki is meeting with ES&S regarding upgrades.
- C. Voting Equipment: our current equipment has been recertified.
- D. Legislation: no substantive moves on the legislative items that we are tracking.

VII. New Business:

- A. Approval of a Lease Agreement with 108 North State Street (Chicago) Owner LLC - “Block 37” for Poll worker training. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Lease Agreement was approved by unanimous vote of the Board
- B. Approval of Contract for Server Virtualization and Backup and Disaster Recovery Services with CDW Governmental LLC.

Information Technology Manager Matt Lin explained that we will be replacing a 12-year old server, for which we have had difficulty getting replacement parts.

Mr. Gough said that we have been trying to use Help America Vote Act (HAVA) money, but the ISBE has been holding up the money so we are using the City of Chicago Agreement with CDW to obtain the system.

The services include secure, multiple application and multiple servers that we can upgrade and patch without disrupting services.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the 36-month contract (8/14/2018 - 8/13/2021). Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion and contract were approved by unanimous vote of the Board

- C. Approval of contract for ballot printing services with Lake County Press Inc. for the November 2018, February 2019 and April 2019 Elections.

Lake County Press has been our printer because there are very few certified in the country, and they are the only certified company to print ballots in Illinois.

Mr. Lasker pointed out that they had been tremendously flexible with last minute changes during the Primary.

Ballot printing costs for each election: November 6, 2018 = \$586,713, combined 2019 elections (February and April) = \$474,428. Estimated grand total for ballot printing for the next three elections is \$1,061,141.00

Term of the agreement is August 14, 2018 through May 31, 2019.

Mr. Gough added that Lake County Press has the paper in stock (a concern was expressed at previous meetings of the Board).

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the contract for ballot printing services with Lake County Press, Inc. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Motion passed, and the contract was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

- D. Approval of Contracts from Invitations for Bid (IFB): Printing of Forms, Envelopes, Signs, Handbook, Banners, Wristbands, Hybrid Form/Envelope 276P to the following Contractors for the November 2018, February 2019 and April 2019 elections

Purchasing Agent Lorel Blameuser reported that awarded contracts were determined through competitive bids, and the bidders included Minority Business Enterprises and Women Owned Enterprises (MBE/WBE). Some of low bidders were not selected for failure to follow the requirements of the bid. The proposed awarded contract recipients, and the respective awarded group, are as follows:

1. Elk Grove Graphics

Group A: Dated Forms	\$194,380.00
Group C: Envelopes	\$166,647.95
Group D: Dated Signs	\$20,589.59
Group F: Banners	\$3,218.00
	\$384,835.54

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the contract with Elk Grove Graphics for printing of groups A, C, D and F. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

2. Cardinal Color Group

Group B: Generic Forms	\$17,022.00
Group E: Generic Signs	\$15,440.00
	\$32,462.00

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the contract with Cardinal Color Group for the printing of Groups B and E. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

3. JJ Collins & Sons

Group G: Judges Handbook	\$120,000.00
Group H: "I VOTED" Wristbands	\$43,900.00
Group I: Hybrid Form/Envelope 276P	\$60,000.00
	\$223,900.00

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the contract with JJ Collins & Sons for the printing of Groups G, H and I. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

E. Approval of contracts for Election Judge Election Trainers for the 2018 general election with:

George Munoz – trainer

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Professional Service Agreement with George Munoz at a rate of \$65/hour not to exceed \$25,000 over the term of the agreement for the training of election judges for the 2018 General Election. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the agreement was approved by unanimous vote of the Board

Alicia Beal – trainer

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Professional Service Agreement with Alicia Beal at a rate of \$50/hour not to exceed \$25,000 over the term of the agreement for the training of election judges for the 2018 General Election. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agreement was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

- F. Approval of increases to poll worker compensation: Judge of Election by \$10.00; from \$190 – 200

Executive Director Gough requested that the Board table this item as the Judge of Election rate is still under review. The Board agreed to postpone a vote on this matter.

- G. Approval of increases to poll worker compensation Election Coordinator by \$100.00 per Polling Place Administrator (Election Coordinator) – from \$350 - \$450. This compensation includes training, setting up temporary remedies to ADA, and performing other Election Day duties. Commissioner Swain moved to approve the increase to Election Coordinator compensation by \$100/Election Coordinator. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report (General Counsel Adam Lasker)

- The ISBE Motion to Dismiss in the Acevedo case was approved. The Acevedo case was dismissed. The case involved a challenge to countywide office signature requirements. The Court decision will uphold the signature requirements.
- Mr. Lasker and Mr. Gough attended a forum and participated in a panel at the University of Wisconsin- Madison sponsored by Election Sciences, Reform, & Administration (ESRA)
 - Professors and PhD students conducted presentations on their research projects of which their papers are in an “editing process”.
 - Part of one panel discussed research papers on Voter ID and how Wisconsin’s new law, elderly and disabled, and voter suppression.
 - Mr. Lasker hopes the Board will continue to support the ERSA group – and their research into important topics that they are looking at in depth.
- We received only 2 objections for the Electoral Board concerning referenda for November. As there was close to 86,000 signatures on one objected petition, the potential records exam will be extensive.
- The new Electoral Board case management system will be a parallel system this round.

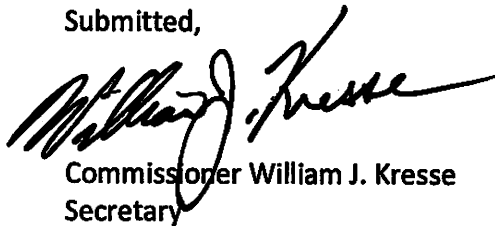
IX. Financial Report: No report

X. Public Comment – Madeline Doubeck – BGA (See Communications Director Report above)

XI. Executive Session: none

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Swain moved to adjourn until either the next scheduled Regular Board Meeting or the call of the Chair. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Kresse", written over the printed name and title.

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary